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# The LABOUR ORGANISER

Edited by  
H. DRINKWATER

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SOMETHING  
“FRESH”

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## LABOUR PARTY LIST OF D.L.P. ALTERATIONS

Index No.	Description	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
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L38	CD	Chesterfield D.L.P.	Coun. W. WESTON, J.P., 9, Shaftesbury Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbys.
F53	CD	Tiverton D.L.P.	Mr. D. M. THOMAS, 2, Ivy Terrace, Belmont Road, Tiverton, Devon.
F98	BD	Bristol East D.L.P.	Mr. F. BURNETT, 5, John Street, Easton, Bristol 5.
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D389	CD	Horsham & Worthing D.L.P.	Mr. JOHNSON, Dalatho, West Chiltington Common, Pulborough, Sussex.
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J537/51	DB	Glasgow B.L.P.	THE SECRETARY, 20, Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2.
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## Whom do we Want in the Party?

(Fourth Article)

### The Technicians

Looming large in society, as in industry, commerce and the sciences, and becoming of ever-increasing importance in the former, are the technicians. This term can, of course, be rightly applied to many craftsmen, but it is usually reserved for those we now mean, i.e., persons whose skill, attainments and position are of the directive order. They are mostly the "bosses" of industry and trade, and definitely belong to the middle classes.

Some of the professions already enumerated may be listed under this heading; so, too, big sections of the scholastic and educational fraternity; also the high-priests of banking and finance, even politicians, the diplomatic and consular services, some civil servants, local government officials, etc., etc.

All are technicians in reality, but we prefer the narrower interpretation here and shall refer to some of the others separately.

The mutual antipathy which seems to exist between manual labour and the classes under notice is quite understandable. The colliery manager, for example, is, to the miner, the embodiment of coalowners' control; the head and front of offending against the aspirations and interests of the workmen. In less degree, maybe, practically

all directive technicians seem, in our capitalist society, to fall foul of, or to have antagonistic interests to, the humbler classes of workers—maybe the snobbery of the one class plays its part in fostering this.

\* \* \* \*

Few persons seem to have asked themselves "Must this continue?" or have questioned what will happen in industry and elsewhere after a worker's triumph if directive ability were to be, in the mass, antagonistic, sullen or frustrating.

To-day we stand at the parting of the ways whereby direction will tend to concentrate in fewer and still fewer hands and the directive persons to be more and more powerful and, therefore, tyrannical; or, direction will become wider; the channels will broaden and democratic control and responsibility might ensue through avenues readily to be perceived in preparation to-day.

It is with these things in mind that we must ask ourselves whether we want the technician in the Party, remembering that despite all our demagogism, so often mistaken for democracy, somebody, somehow or somewhere, will always give the orders; superior skill or education will count a lot for the "gaffer."

\* \* \* \*

Economically we fail to see the divergence of interest between the tens of thousands of technicians and the millions of workers, except that the former, though still the servants, are, nevertheless, the premier implements of capitalism. The distrust, jealousies and antagonisms that exist are not fundamental; they are also largely social.

Politics, trade and industry are more closely interwoven to-day than at any time in history. But we suspect that politics and politicians have not kept up with the times; industry understands politics better than politicians understand industry.

A Party such as ours, which aspires as a settled policy to control or own ultimately, through the State, all trade and industry, has at least a special need to be understood by the vital cogs in such matters. The technicians are vital cogs, even if quite large numbers of them are superfluous and are, in essence, no more than dividend drawers. The others, the bulk, remain and will remain.

So it seems that Socialists must enlarge their vision—as, of course, many have done. A Labour Party in no sense loses its flavour by embracing and seeking all essential workers. But what a lot of prejudices must be broken down yet. That is a matter for coming articles on HOW TO GET those whom we want in the Party.

\* \* \* \*

#### Local Government and Civil Service Classes

Equally essential to the needs and policy of our Party when victory attends us is the sympathy, understanding and co-operation of those engaged in the machinery of government. Just as a hostile directive class might prove an insuperable obstacle (or, at least, a selfish and costly one) to industrial collectivism, so would a hostile Civil Service or local government class of official prove a sore obstruction to Socialist legislation. Have we not found that out already? Few people realise the power of the higher ranks in these circles nor how it is used to-day. The lesser ranks, too, possess an immense influence for good or evil.

Happily, in securing the goodwill of these classes Labour has a good start on account of existing Trade Union organisation. Political Labour is not, however, *persona grata* with all these organisations, nor is the T.U.C. for that

matter, while outside them altogether is an immense and formidable element.

Here, then, is another field and a difficult one to cultivate. It is none the less desirable, and we will add this lot to our other recorded ambitions.

#### Other Professions

Our computations and capacity for counting chickens is rising. Have we not already surveyed a tremendous field for recruits, incidentally, perhaps, uncovering big preserves and reserves of the enemy? Yet that ought not to dismay or satisfy.

The "professions" have each a quota we would like. The doctors, lawyers and parsons, already dealt with, still leave us dentists, architects, practising accountants and several smaller professions, though none are such natural allies as the first-named two. The architects, especially, Labour *does* want.

The great scholastic profession and the powerful shopkeeping element in society must wait until next month.

We have not succeeded in our desire to finish this series of articles this month.

[Shortly: "How to get those whom we want in the Party."]

#### SOME N.C.L.C. PUBLICATIONS

We are glad to hear that the National Council of Labour Colleges has been able to republish its "Outline of Economics," by W. McLaine, revised by W. T. Colyer. Living as we do in a complicated economic system, it is essential that the ordinary citizen should have a grasp of the fundamentals of economic theory and practice. This outline will give that. It costs 3/-, or 3/3 post free, from the N.C.L.C., war-time address Tillicoultry, Scotland.

Another well-known N.C.L.C. pamphlet which has just been reprinted is "The Mystery of Money," by Arthur Woodburn, M.P. (author of "Outline of Finance"), 4d., 5d. post free. There is no publication that puts the main facts about the monetary system in more easily understood language.

#### Coming Shortly:

"HOW TO GET THOSE WHOM WE WANT IN THE PARTY!"

# JUST PERSONAL

## IN WHICH THE EDITOR REPLIES TO A REQUEST

An enemy told me the other day that after 23 years of editorship I ought to have something useful to say to budding writers and wouldbe scribes—even to Labour journalism generally.

I suppose 23 years continuous editorship is something unusual. The common crowd don't last that long, witness "Daily Herald" changes and lots of others.

My long-suffering readers have allowed me to make a record in Labour journalism. But they, nor that, have killed youthful ambition. The editor tries to make each issue better than the last. The 23 years is one long story of such monthly effort; of failure to satisfy oneself and of trying again.

\* \* \* \*

The same false friend added that I ought to introduce myself to readers (after 23 years!); give a biography (which I daren't, and didn't I say too much in "The Wanderlust"?); and generally I ought to lay my soul bare by details as to diet, habits (all bad!) and views on this and that. Again—alas, I daren't!

Readers who really want to know the editor better should gaze on that map produced on the cover of Nos. 200 and 237. Observe that alert and compelling countenance; youth and square-chinned beauty with a dogged-does-it demeanour! You can destroy that page; you may even tread on it; but nobody has ever succeeded in doing either to the editor. There's often been some wishful thinking.

\* \* \* \*

Details! Well, my main love in life is life; a sacred yet a sacrificial thing. I love life. Thus fresh life comes, with youthful thoughts and bounteous blessings. For the secret of life is to keep it young.

The top of an old carrot will give forth fresh foliage, green, handsome and virile if one puts the cut off pieces in a reviver of water. I have known many an old country heart then in British slums who knew that trick and

held communion thereby with the green things of a long-gone-by childhood!

\* \* \* \*

Temper? I'm sweet. Usually, that is, if one doesn't get rattled. And there's a heck of a lot in this world to cause trouble; besides which, I make a bit myself.

Amusements? Well, with 12 children (I still pay school fees), and God knows how many children's children (which sounds better than the other term), I have always done most of the amusing myself. I can do an Irish jig, a Scotch reel, the high kick—a daily exercise—skip, play horses or asses, make toys, mend dolls, tell stories, help with home lessons; not to mention digging, making concrete, house painting and carpentering; all of which latter jobs are once again just completed. Young? Yes! *Quod erat demonstrandum.*

Then I am fond of motoring, of country life and looking in ditches for the earliest signs of spring. I climb trees and I shie at obby honkers. I read a lot at nights—about six books a week. I hate "pictures" and like "shows."—N.B.—Heard some naughty jokes this week at the \_\_\_\_! I nearly split my sides over the others!

\* \* \* \*

In money matters I am a spendthrift. I hold that it is better to burn it now than burn with it later on. I give my share to charities. Incidentally, I asked my vicar last week if he had any distress in the parish. We are quite good friends, though I don't understand him and he'll never understand me. Of course, I expected to "part," but—good, honest fellow—though the vicar has the care of five combined parishes he hadn't a case of distress on his books.

I then asked after "rescue" work, but, if the parson is to believed, there isn't a fallen woman in the five parishes. If, therefore, readers hear of H.D. setting out on a voyage of discovery—a new

hunt for an unholy grail—will they please pray for me—and for my pocket?

Finally, I don't go to church, because to all of mine *I* am the Church, and a jolly cheap and easygoing one at that. I am, and have been, the life, and the head of a church brooks no opposition.

Perhaps now the new reader knows me better. The "old uns" found me out long, long ago.

#### The Waiter Gives Tips

So my enemy wants tips. He who tempted me to this shocking disclosure. Well, here goes.

In the first place the Socialist writer should understand that half the propaganda value, and half the sense, are lost if one writes learnedly. The greatest writers are those who put hard cases in simple words.

Really, the average Englishman is a dunce; so are the women, except in some things. Nobody carries a dictionary about with them, and, anyway, lots of words in the Socialist vocabulary have lost their way thereto. One may be a pedant, but pedantry neither catches or converts. Talk and write easy English.

Next, don't be too serious. The world is one big joke wherein the gods and the goblins play hay with the people.

Nobody likes the over-serious writer, except the misanthropes. A flash of humour is as night lightning; it illuminates, it precedes the clamour of sound and makes clear that which would be dull, dark and mysterious. If one wants the world to laugh one must laugh with it, for that way one carries the crowd. They read on.

\* \* \*

Then there is variety. Mankind and monotony never hit it off. Man wants change and history shows he gets it: and always did.

If one must write, don't always write about the same thing—unless, of course, one aims to be a specialist, like Mr. Middleton on manures, Flack on "Fleas," or Aneurin Bevan on Winston Churchill. It is wonderful exercise to change the subject; it conceals one's ignorance and it gives time to learn a bit more.

After all, it isn't the art of writing that matters. Knowledge of one's subject is of greater importance.

As a final tip—be human! Some

people write as if one's own knowledge and education were the essential matters to display when writing. Such attributes, it seems, should be as obvious in every writing as a whisky drinker's beacon or a hole in one's heel.

Not so. A writer should write not to air his knowledge but in order to place his talents and learning at the disposal of others. The prime aim when writing is to be useful to others. It is not odd, but only natural, that when this is the object simplicity and directness of style follow.

In the end one's wealth of knowledge is by no means concealed, but its conveyance has been sweeter, cleaner, easier and more pleasing all round, because service to others is the only way by which a writer can justify himself at all.

## THE LABOUR PARTY

Applications are invited for the District Organisership for the Eastern Counties, covering

CAMBRIDGESHIRE,  
BEDFORDSHIRE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE,  
ESSEX,  
HUNTINGDON,  
NORFOLK, and  
SUFFOLK.

Forms of application and particulars to be obtained from the National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before 23rd October, 1943.

Mr. Cliff Protheroe, late District Organiser, Eastern Counties, has been appointed District Organiser Wales, vice George Morris, deceased. The post carries with it the secretaryship of the South Wales Regional Council of Labour.

# Some Things I would like to see

## A VERY UNUSUAL ARTICLE

Workingmon is a typical industrial town. From the dingy "joint" station one passes through a corridor to the outer street. The corridor is airy, too much so, and here the crowds congregate, waiting friends' arrival, seeing friends off, maybe just waiting for the rain to cease.

In the corridor there are placards galore. Everybody advertises except Labour. Trade and commerce and competition just cannot miss the opportunity to proclaim the wares the workers want; and a row of neat glass cases, some empty, display the best of local industry's handicraft.

How I would like to see in one of those glass cases a display of Socialist literature, and an address saying where to get it. One wonders, will the bookstall take orders?

Or if literature is impossible why not a placard as follows:

### THE LABOUR PARTY IS THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

You may secure its literature, make all enquiries, or join as a member by applying to the Local Secretary, as below:—

JOHN BRIGHT,

Ruskin House, High Street,  
Workingmon.

Welcome to Workingmon.  
Welcome to our Party.

Way down Workingmon's, High Street, is a large open square. Early Socialists made many a convert here. But to-day the buses dash along, put down and pick up thousands of citizens and travellers: for the square is now a bus centre. Whisky, wine and beer here blazened forth their virtues on big signs and on little ones. So do lots of other things in daily use—but strangely silent is the power and the politics or policies, which guide all these peoples' lives, which indeed brought into being the will to buy those buses, and render service to the people.

Here are a number of thoughtful shelters where passengers wait in their queues, each shelter blazoned with calls to drink, commands to eat, even to take medicines. How I would love to see in some of them, just nose-high a lettered sign:

### *The People's Omnibus* That's the Labour Party

and it's going to  
get you somewhere!

### ALWAYS LOOK TO LABOUR

To know more about us, write  
or call on the Secretary:—

JOHN BRIGHT,  
Ruskin House, High Street,  
Workingmon.

Six p.m. in Workingmon. Boys are scarce nowadays: not that there are less urchins in the world, but they have a price; and get it.

Still boys are there, and as "Evening Noise" is raucously bawled in one's ear-hole one laments the miserable means available for retaliation. We buy the rag and shut him up a mo.

Boys don't run after custom as they used to do. It comes to them. Buying is brisk, and in the train or in the tram, and on the buses "Noises" seem as plentiful as ever. Certainly the rags get into the homes, and because of scarcity of lady's forget-me-nots and kiddies' comics there is a family feed of falsehoods instead of only a daddy's diet.

Yet this great evening paper public does get news of Labour doings nowadays, of Labour leaders, of glimpses of Labour policy. We are in the news. Yet strangely, thousands upon thousands, unless they write to Mr. Bevin and Mr. Morrison (which they are unlikely to do for Labour policy enlightenment) haven't the ghost of an idea where this mystic Labour Party lives, has its abode, its home, or plots its plans,

How I would love to admire an advt. that might read:—

## LABOUR CALLING!

You must read more about Labour. Know more about this Labour Party. Enquirers welcomed—members, too.

Take up this matter to-night and enquire at any of these addresses:

NORTH WARD: Joe South,  
4 Ward Drive.

EAST WARD: G. D. East,  
8 Poverty Street.

WEST WARD: A. Hope,  
4 Common End.

CENTRAL WARD: J. Bright,  
Ruskin House, High Street,  
Workingmon.

*If you can't call, please write*

There was a whiff of beer, stale, strong, compelling. The whiff or the beer has been strong enough to compel that fellow we just passed to walk as no man should. He reeled.

This is a "working-man's" club, just like many another. Theoretically it caters for working-class leisure and pleasure.

We look inside, women and men and children too sit round about. Blue smoke, black beer (and a slobber of it everywhere); raucous voices, angry women, tired kids, maudlin men, and ting-ting-ting, ting-ting-ting, that cash register and none too pleased looking pot-man are the real workers here.

Who are the others? Where are their homes? (and their senses); whence came they? — Where do they go o' nights after closing time?

Babble, babble, babble; beer, beer, beer; pence, pence, pence; drink, drink, drink. The place reeks: it stinks. The brain reels: it is overcome. Let's get out of this.

Oh heavens, that there are these places. And for goodness' sake don't deny it. *I can take you to them!*

What hope for Democracy with these evil sores to befuddle the brains, to bottle up our bonny brothers night after night in foetid air and utter uselessness?

Let the champions of these dens arise. I will face them, fence them, fell them. These things, and they, are unclean.

I have one more wish, which is but a temporary one: until these places with their slushy indulgence go down the drains and Labour itself sets an example with people's homes of brighter cleaner hue, I would wish to see herein and in all these places a notice:

## THIRST

A GREAT GLORIOUS THIRST  
IS WORTH HAVING.

It is what you quench it with  
that matters!

• If you thirst for Good Homes,  
Security, Better Conditions,  
Just Laws, Freedom from Want.

A Happy People and a Noble Nation

**You are in the wrong place  
GO HOME!**

## You can Help the Labour Organiser

Will Secretaries whose Parties now obtain only one or two copies per month, please note that it will help them, and help the "L.O." to increase their orders to at least 6, 12 or 24 copies. Some Parties greatly exceed these quantities—and reap the reward.

**SPECIAL TERMS FOR QUANTITIES—See Page 2**

# Enlisting Trade Union Aid

## A Lesson from Colne

Many secretaries have yearned for the day of closer co-operation in membership matters between the industrial and political wings of Labour. Trade Union membership booms and Labour Party membership just holds its own (or worse) and there is an end of the matter in most cases. There seems nothing to be done about it!

In the Nelson and Colne Division they seem, under the guidance of our old friend Willie John Throup, to be solving the problem, and here, at any rate, is an example and a method worth copying. Colne, by the way, has had a total of 3,000 members or more for many years.

In Colne's case the officials of the Unions are enlisted in the good cause. Circulars like the one produced are prepared and sent to T.U. members over the signatures of the Union or branch officers themselves.

In some cases the Trade Union collectors now collect Party subscriptions as well, and, our report says, "it is going successfully."

As "W.J."—one of Labour's oldest and most successful agents—says: "In my view, we must use, more than we have done, and wherever possible, the Trade Union machine to do our job." We might add it is to do its own job, too!

### A SAMPLE CIRCULAR

Here is one of the circulars referred to:—

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Nelson and District Association of Preparatory Workers we cordially invite you to join the Labour Party and to contribute to its funds. To do things—industrially and politically—we must be strong; to be strong we must stand together; there is no other way.

The future is with the working people—if they so will it. Decent treatment for children—decent wages and conditions for all workers—decent pensions and allowances for the victims of war; pensions (without a means test)

on which people can live to those who have spent a lifetime at work.

These are our immediate needs as we travel along the road to social security.

All these things are to-day enjoyed by people in New Zealand—under a Labour Government.

Only a Labour Government will grant these things—only Labour will bring social justice.

That is why Labour must be strong and vigorous. Make no mistake—when peace comes we must win it.

You can assist by joining the Party now. Subscriptions are 1d. per week, paid monthly, quarterly, or at the convenience of the member.

Please sign your name and address in the space below and arrangements for collection will be made by officials of the Labour Party.

Name .....

Address .....

Kindly fill in and your Trade Union Collector will call for the form later.

Hoping you will respond wholeheartedly to this appeal,

Yours sincerely,

Many friends will be happy to hear of the recovery of our old friend Richard Montford, J.P., C.C., after a very serious illness lasting some months. This wonderful old enthusiast recently journeyed to London (from Wellingborough) for a Trade Union meeting and is keen as mustard in the Trade Union office which he has held for over 20 years. You can't down some men—certainly not, when only 86!

A D.L.P. Secretary writes:—"Please find enclosed cheque for £1 1s., subscription for the "Labour Organiser." It is certainly one of the publications I would not miss, and I may say that the local Party secretaries to whom I distribute them—in fact, all the other five who get them—are as anxious for their arrival as I am."

# HOLIDAYS AT HOME

## A Warwickshire Example that was a Rollicking Success

No doubt there are a number of L.L.P.s throughout the country who participated this year in local Holidays at Home arrangements and functions.

So far we have heard from only one Party which took an active part by organising holiday events. If their success is any criterion we can see the example given below being widely copied. Anyway, our friends of the Solihull L.L.P. have shown magnificent enterprise and exceptional ability and energy, as will be seen by the account below:

### SOLIHULL LOCAL LABOUR PARTY Holidays-at-Home, 1943

In response to an invitation issued by the Solihull District Council (near Birmingham) to all local organisations to participate in the Holidays-at-Home Programme under their auspices, the Local Labour Party undertook to organise and be responsible for several events. These included three dances, a whist drive and a Bank Holiday fête.

The dances and whist drive were very well attended and the Party was easily able to meet its financial commitments. It should be noted that under the arrangements entered into with the Solihull Council, the Party accepted full financial responsibility for all events, any profits made to belong to the Party. It is therefore gratifying to place on record the extraordinary success of all these events.

A dance at the Council House which the Party organised, was the final event of the programme and on this occasion the Right Hon. Miss Margaret Bondfield attended, together with the Chairman of the Council. The dance produced a net profit of over £45.

The most successful, and probably the best organised event of the whole programme, was, undoubtedly, the Bank Holiday fête which the Party organised on August 2nd, at the Jubilee Park, Olton.

A considerable amount of detailed work was necessary, and in order to cover the initial expenses of something like £100, every effort was made to sell as many programmes as possible. Programme sellers did well to dispose of 1,300 at 1/- a time.

That such a venture as this was possible at all was due in no small measure to the helpful assistance which the Party received from the Clerk of the Council, Mr. N. P. Lester, and to the work of an all too small number of Party members, who did not hesitate to place Party interests first and foremost.

The report before us regrets that some members, especially those from whose attendance at meetings it is concluded are only interested in the Labour Party when affiliation to the Communist Party is being discussed, failed to put in an appearance on the day of the fête or even to support the other functions. The real credit is therefore due to the Party officers — the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and the members of an enlarged Entertainments Committee.

Fortunately, the event was blessed with good weather, and while arrangements had been made to cater for a crowd of about 3,000, the numbers actually admitted something in the region of 8,500, surpassed all expectations. The events, which were arranged for this fête as well as the various side-shows and sundry attractions, hint to us of a skilled hand somewhere in the Party.

The Ministry of Food permitted ample supplies of rationed food-stuffs and with the co-operation of the Solihull British Restaurant and several retail suppliers, it was possible to supply varied and adequate refreshments. The takings in this item is a sufficient indication of the amount of work involved. Details of the income and expenditure for the various events are before us and show a balance of income over ex-

penditure of approximately £476 17s. 4d. This is a most satisfactory result, and as the ordinary finances of the Party were also flourishing, the year may well go down as the best ever in the history of the Local Labour Party.

We congratulate Solihull Labour Party on its pluck and success. We understand the Party have the building of a hall in their minds. If a Toy Bazaar at Christmas yields the hoped-for sum of £550, that hall would seem likely as one of the earliest of the

### GERALD CUNNINGHAM

Gerald Cunningham, of Bristol, posted as missing in February last, as reported by the "L.O." at the time, has now been officially reported killed in action.

Writing in the Bristol Labour Weekly, Stan Awbery writes an appreciation such as few earn and most of us would envy. Yet this is true:—

"The Bristol Central D.L.P. sustained a heavy and irreparable loss by the death, on active service, of its secretary, Gerald Cunningham. A young man of great promise, his exceptional organising abilities were placed wholeheartedly and unreservedly at the disposal of the Labour Party.

"Loyal, sincere, unselfish and devoted to his ideals, he performed his work for the Party thoroughly and well, attending to details with meticulous care. He planned his work for the Party assiduously, and implemented it thoroughly; and because he made himself worthy of it, held in a high degree the confidence of all the workers in the Division. He possessed a precision of mind not enjoyed by many, and youth with its attendant energy, coupled with a robust common sense.

"Having embraced the ideals of the Labour Party, he endeavoured with a warm passion to translate them into effective and constructive work. He observed injustice at close quarters, and found in politics a means of ending it, steadfastly setting himself to use this means of achieving its removal."

**Bedfordshire Federation.**—Mr. R. A. Marston, 11, St. John's Street, Bedford, has been appointed Secretary to the Bedfordshire Federation of Labour Parties.

### SURREY COUNTY FEDERATION SETS A GREAT EXAMPLE

The Surrey Federation of Labour Parties has, by the publication of "A Town and Country Plan for Surrey,"\* in one step made a contribution of highest merit to after-war planning and, at the same time, exalted its Federation to a position where it may be regarded as an authority and leader among similar bodies and in the controversies surrounding this matter in other spheres.

This is no ordinary pamphlet. It bears the stamp of expert and intimate knowledge, and it is prepared in a manner, with maps, facts and data, that stamp it as no mere propaganda or idealistic effort, but as a solid and constructive contribution on knowledgeable lines to the replanning of an important and complex county.

We could wish that other Federations could emulate this work. Maybe they have not the expert and painstaking investigators, whose zeal and penetrating knowledge peeps through on every page.

Yet we advise other Federations to get this booklet and study it. Some of the problems touched upon are common to all. The approach to them opens one's eyes and one perceives how other Federations might collect data, examine same, and prepare plans for the form the Socialist State will take in their counties in terms of towns, villages, planned areas, etc., with suitable amenities for all.

The work of the Surrey Federation does raise in our minds a thought of the handicaps we must later on suffer under if these things are left to others or to central hands. The success of this venture confirms us also in the view that to impose a structure of area government on counties that can do so much for themselves, or that have not yet had time to do it, is an unwise step. There are brains in other places than, for instance, in Whitehall.

\*Price 6d., from Geo. L. Deacon, F.C.I.S., 35 Nelson Road, New Malden, Surrey.

*(Concluded from page 12)*

is a forgotten aspect of Socialism—forgotten and distrusted while we worshipped at the fetish of "a free and independent press" owned and controlled and unscrupulously used by the arch enemy of our ideals!

# Press Influence declines

## What should Labour do about it?

Two remarkable statements attributed to Hannen Swaffer attract our attention.

One statement, made in the "Daily Herald," was to the effect that there would have been no war had the British press told the public the truth in 1933. That certainly is a serious charge. It amounts to fixing the war responsibility, and what we want to know is how many British editors and publicists are to take their stand among the "war criminals" when the bloody deluge which, according to Swaffer, they could have avoided, is over and done with.

This paper has always realised the rascality of newspaperdom, and we have said that Labour would have been far better advised to have challenged and fought this evil in our midst, out and out, rather than to have seemed to curry its favours and crave its notices.

No thinking, intelligent or observing Person requires a case to be made out at this stage. Press distortions, suppressions, falsehoods and degrading influence generally make a different picture to that so impudently held each day before the public of a selfless third estate desiring nothing (not even profit) before the enlightenment of a people. Yet the daily press is the very instrument by which blindness and appalling ignorance, even of their own affairs, has been fastened upon the people.

From Swaffer's second statement it seems that Nemesis is on the way—for the Power of the Press is declining, says he.

Well, we never believed that out of evil could come forth good. We shall revise our ideas, for if there is to be one great, good thing spring from this war it must be this discovery of Swaffer's. For which let us give thanks.

The decline in the power of the press is by no means a matter of decline in circulation only. The fact is that the public at last are affected with scepticism at what they read in "our" papers; and some people do remember things

day by day or from week to week! One supposes that all this is because one cannot fool all the people all the time. The Press have had a good look in with some of the people as with most of the time.

Labour, however, in rejoicing that one enemy is less powerful should beware of others. The power of the B.B.C. and of cinema propaganda have not declined. Both have a poisonous output, if not all the time, at least some of the time.

Yet much of Labour's organisation ignores the possibility of meeting at least one of these enemy forces. The film is not being taken up as a daily activity by any L.L.P., and yet that is where one answer lies. Labour Film Propaganda has tremendous potential value. Must we point to it in vain?

Moreover, if the power of the press be declining, the influence of that portion of it which is frankly propagandist, and not propagandist through its pseudo-news, is not, we believe, less influential. But Labour lacks sadly in this sphere. There is room either for four or five weekly papers of the old "Lansbury Weekly" order; or, more urgent still, for a great development, on area lines, of the few Labour weeklies we possess.

The journal which is manifestly an organ of opinion has at least the stamp of honesty. Labour can make inroads in the field vacated by the contracted influence of its enemy if it prepared to develop its local press—the broadsheet monthly, the chains of local newspapers. We believe that an examination of our possibilities in this direction would lead to the forging of a powerful new weapon.

We believe, also, that Labour should not be content to see the influence of the daily press merely languish. It should be prepared to hasten that end and to put something in its place.

Perhaps eventually we may see develop on Socialist lines newsheets that are newsheets and that only. This

(Concluded on page 11)

# Some Answers to Questions

**Reprinted from earlier issues**

## Secretary's or Executive's Annual Report?

**Question:** I am submitting the following point of difference that has arisen in our Party, and I would very much appreciate it if you could give an interpretation or ruling on the following matter.

The constitution of our Party states under the heading of definition of duties . . . . The General Secretary shall conduct all correspondence and prepare an annual report . . . that is the end of the paragraph dealing with that matter.

For the past two years the report has been drawn up as stated, sent to delegates with the agenda for the annual meeting, discussed at the annual meeting, has been amended and then adopted, after which, of course, it becomes the Report of the General or Management Committee.

The opinion is now expressed that the Secretary should submit his report to the Executive Committee of the Party, who in turn would amend and adopt it. It would then become the report of the Executive Committee to the General Committee.

You may know of definite precedents in the matter. I should, however, very much appreciate any assistance you can offer to put the whole matter in proper order.

**Answer:** In the first place, we might comment that the rule referred to by our correspondent does not appear in the Model Rules of Party. It did, however, prior to the Conference held at Brighton in 1929, when the new rules were adopted.

The old rules defined precisely the duties of the secretary, the treasurer and financial secretary, and made general certain matters which are best left to local working, and on which some variation of practice must arise according to the size of a Party.

While there are such things as secretaries' reports and agents' reports to be presented to general meetings, we much

prefer an annual meeting to be provided with a report of the year's working on the collective responsibility of the Executive itself. Collective responsibility is, after all, an important matter, and it makes for efficient working.

Everyone, of course, knows that the Executive Report is the handiwork of the secretary or agent, and his personality, if he has any, is certain to be expressed in it. At the same time, its submission to amendment by the Executive is quite proper. If there is any feeling at all about it the Executive would be wise to embody a secretary or agent's report as a part of their own report.

## Resolutions Dissenting from National Policy

**Question:** At our annual meeting, held the other day, some of our local Labour Parties sent in resolutions which were ruled out of order because they did not accord with the Labour Party's declared policy and programme. Some of us felt that the resolutions ought not to have been ruled out without a discussion, but we were in a bit of a quandary to know what would be our position if some of the resolutions were passed and are not in accord with national policy. Can you please enlighten us upon this subject?

**Answer:** As our readers will be aware, the recent tendencies of Democratic Parties in all parts of the world have not been in the direction of encouraging internal dissent on questions of policy. This arises from the fact that so far as the British Labour Party is concerned, at any rate, matters of policy have been well discussed, and are now fairly crystallised; besides this, all Democratic Parties are now much closer to grips with their opponents, and in the face of the enemy unity is more than ever essential.

At the same time, the Labour Party has at no time in its history attempted to stifle adequate discussion on its

policy, or denied attempts to modify or define this or that item, so long as there was general support and a fairly wide acceptance of the main principles for which the Party stands.

Local Parties should be careful how they pass resolutions which may clash with conference decisions. Certainly they should at no time allow such resolutions to become public, for there can be no such thing as local policy on a national question as distinct from national policy.

This expression of opinion must not be taken as limiting the right of a Party to table a motion for the annual conference of the Party, which may express a divergence from present policy. If the fact were otherwise our policy, once formulated, could never be changed. In similar circumstances to those outlined by our correspondent, we suggest that discussion can be obtained on a motion that such resolutions should be promoted by the Party for submission at the next annual conference. There would, of course, still be certain resolutions which might be altogether inadmissible, but, as we understand our correspondent, the resolutions named had principally to do with the question of compensation or otherwise for nationalised industries; there can be no doubt that such matter is a fair and proper one to be brought in the normal way before the annual conference.

#### Annual Meeting Minutes—When To Be Read

*Question:* Our D.L.P. meets quarterly. The Annual General Meeting is the February meeting, though the business of the A.G.M. is quite general and in no sense differs from the ordinary quarterly meetings, except for the special business of electing officers.

Now I find a ruling that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting will not be read until the next one, so that matters which I wish to raise arising out of those Minutes cannot be dealt with. I should be glad if you would give your opinion of this procedure and some guidance as to how business ought to be conducted.

I have also been used to having E.C. minutes read and adopted at a General Meeting. Is this the proper procedure? I may say that there are no formal standing orders and precedent determines the method here. The wards

copy the procedure of divisional meetings.

*Answer:* We think the procedure our friend outlines is altogether undesirable and improper. It seems absurd that the minutes of a meeting should not be read for twelve months, and therefore are incapable of challenge for that period.

There are three other methods of dealing with this matter which we are aware of, and they are as follow:—

1. The Annual General Meeting is summoned for the same date and place as the General Meeting, but is held first, and business transacted thereat is confined entirely to necessary formal business, including the adoption of the Annual Report. After the formal business is done the Annual Meeting is terminated and the General Meeting commences. The minutes of the Annual Meeting are not read at the next General Meeting.

2. A similar procedure to the above, but the annual minutes *are* read at the next General Meeting. This, however, is not quite accurate, because the next "General Meeting" is really the one that follows on the same day as the annual one.

3. The Annual Meeting and the General Meeting are held at one and the same time, and the minutes are adopted at the next General Meeting, but they are also read for general information at the following annual meeting. For our correspondent's guidance we should say that we consider the latter procedure to be the best.

As to our correspondent's further question regarding the reading of Executive minutes to General Meetings, we have expressed elsewhere our disapproval of this practice, for we consider that it is far better procedure for a definite report to be given by the Executive.

#### THE CHORUS

A secretary writes:—

I found the copy No. 258 most interesting and shall look forward to its monthly appearance.

Another writes:—

I find the "L.O." so very useful to me in my work as a Divisional Secretary.

## PUBLICATIONS

The September issue of the Labour Party Bulletin Guide comprised a complete guide to the recent Fire Guard Orders.

This is a timely publication and literature sellers should have no difficulty in disposing of quite large quantities — with corresponding tributes from purchasers to our Party's enterprise in this matter.

The prices are:—1 copy, 2d., post free; 10 copies, 9d.; 100 copies, 7/-; 1,000 copies, £3 5s.

Incidentally, we understand that a revised edition of the Labour Party Guide to War Pensions, Allowances and Grants is now in print, incorporating the recent changes in the pension rates and the Pensions Appeal Tribunals.

Copies of the Guide can be obtained at the following prices:—1 copy, 3d., post free; 12 copies, 1/6; 100 copies, 12/-; 1,000 copies, £5 10s.

No Party officer or public representative can afford to be without this Guide to Pensions for the fighting forces, the Home Guard and Mercantile Marine Services. It also contains information on civilian war injuries, war service grants and allowances for prisoners of war.

Apropos our recent note re the Barnet Labour Review, we learn that our friends here recently started a canvassing campaign, delivering the "Review" to a number of houses for three or four months, then following up with a personal call. This saves a great deal of explanation on the doorstep and has brought in six new members for about three hours' work. A letter from the candidate welcoming these and other new members will probably be sent in future.

We note that the South Bradford Co-operative and Labour Record, which has been continuously issued since 1932 is henceforth to be known as the Bradford and District Co-operative and Labour Record and will now cater for a wider area. The paper is well edited by Mr. Arthur Stott, 25, Southgate, Bradford.

Congratulations to the "Reading Citizen" and to the Reading Labour Party, who, since their offices were blitzed, have occupied temporary premises. Both are back in the old, restored premises. "The Citizen," which is also the official organ of the Berkshire Federation, covers a wide area. Its 16 pages always carry a varied content, and the paper ranks high among similar journals.

## PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY SECRETARSHIP

Mr. H. Scott Lindsay, who for many years has been secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party, having reached retirement age, the National Executive Committee, with the approval of the Administrative Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party, have appointed Mr. Carol Johnson to succeed him.

Mr. Lindsay will continue in the secretaryship for a period during which Mr. Carol Johnson will be actively associated with the work. The new secretary will then assume full responsibility.

Mr. Carol Johnson, who is a Labour Alderman of the Lambeth Borough Council, is at present assistant town clerk to the Corporation of Southall. He is a solicitor and a tutor of the Workers' Educational Association. He has been closely associated with the Workers' Travel Association. He is 39 years of age.

## SPENNYMOOR

From Spennymoor, Co. Durham, we learn that the secretary, Mr. J. W. Ainsley, has just concluded a Divisional Campaign of twenty-three meetings, mostly open-air, with good results.

This Party has tried a new device, in which the piano-accordion player has figured. The programme has been Labour song, short address, four songs, two short addresses, then the M.P., Jim Murray, with a brief account of his stewardship, and questions. Meetings were all good and the message got "across." Well, if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

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